

SILVERWINGS

"Back to the basics"

Vol. 32, Issue 50

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

December 19, 2008

Weather



Today

High: 72, Low: 51
30% Chance of Rain



Saturday

High: 71, Low: 55
Cloudy



Sunday

High: 61, Low: 23
Showers



Monday

High: 46, Low: 23
Mostly Sunny

News Briefs

AAFES Holiday Hours

The Base Exchange will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 24. The Shoppette will be open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 24. All AAFES facilities will be closed Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas. The BX will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 31. The Shoppette will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 31. The BX will close Jan. 1, 2009 and the Shoppette will be open from 10:30 a.m. Jan. 1.

Commissary Holiday Hours

The Base Commissary will be open Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will be close early at 3 p.m. Dec. 24. It will be closed Dec. 25, Dec. 26 and Jan. 1, 2009 in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Inside



Feature 10

AETC Commander General Stephen Lorenz's BLAZE team visit is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens

General Stephen Lorenz, Commander, Air Education and Training Command, greets Airman 1st Class Siddharth Sunny, 14th Force Support Squadron, as the Columbus Air Force Base Honor Guard welcomes General Lorenz before a breakfast with dormitory residents in Montgomery Village Tuesday. General and Mrs. Lorenz visited the men and women of Columbus AFB Dec. 15 and 16.

General Lorenz spends time with BLAZE team

Airman 1st Class Josh Harbin
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

General Stephen Lorenz, Commander, Air Education and Training Command, and his wife Leslie, visited Columbus AFB Dec. 15 and Dec. 16 during his initial immersion of all AETC bases.

General Lorenz has been the new AETC commander since July 2008.

Over the course of his visit, the general and Mrs. Lorenz were able to visit various areas throughout the base to develop a deeper understanding of Columbus AFB's contribution to AETC's mission: develop See **LORENZ**, Page 3

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select
37th (09-10)	8.11 day	7.57 days	Nov. 12
41st (09-11)	5.62 days	1.71 days	Dec. 11

PHASE III

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
48th (09-01)	0.89 days	1.10 days	Nov. 14
50th (09-01)	1.96 days	8.54 days	Nov. 14

IFF

Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
49th (09-BB)	-1.61 days	0.59 days	Nov. 17

WING SORTIE BOARD

Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
T-6	2,784	2,823	2,823
T-1	1,020	999	999
T-38	844	855	855
IFF	238	289	289

Track Select

Capt. Laura Grossman	T-1
2nd Lt. Derek Bell	T-1
2nd Lt. Body Bohn	T-1
2nd Lt. Lea Doyle	T-1
2nd Lt. Joseph Halpern	T-1
2nd Lt. Carlos Hernandez	T-1
2nd Lt. Hodson Jessica	T-1
2nd Lt. Matthew Hought	T-38
2nd Lt. Andrew Kline	T-44
2nd Lt. Aaron Knight	T-38
2nd Lt. John Larson	HELO
2nd Lt. Joshua Lee	T-1
2nd Lt. Andre Lewis	T-1
2nd Lt. Benjamin Malott	T-38
2nd Lt. Martin Reed	T-1
2nd Lt. Katherine Maynard	T-1
2nd Lt. Ryan McGahern	T-1
2nd Lt. Ryan McGrail	T-1
2nd Lt. Kyle Morales	T-1
2nd Lt. Benjamin Rotz	T-1
2nd Lt. Donald Schmotzer	T-1
2nd Lt. Core Simmons	T-1
2nd Lt. Christian Wilson	HELO



Dubliher Award
2nd Lt. Aaron Knight

T-38 Top Guns

Contact: 2nd Lt. Aaron Knight

Formation: 2nd Lt. Matthew Hought

Instrument: 2nd Ryan McGrail

09-11

Increased BAS for 2009

Basic allowance for subsistence rates will increase January 1, 2009. Officers will receive \$223.04 and enlisted members will receive 323.87.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 28 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.



Road closure notification

The Army Corps of Engineers has initiated Phase II construction of the MSG Building. During this time, the southeast portion of 6th Street and the southwest portion of Downs Street will be closed to traffic (shaded area on the map). These street sections will be closed until the scheduled project completion in February 2010. Surrounding parking lot areas will not be affected.

Have a Safe Holiday Season ... Don't Drink and Drive

SILVER WINGS

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Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.

Colonel Watkins speaks to SUPT 09-03 graduates

2nd Lt. Jeffrey Weger
14th Medical Operations Squadron

Colonel Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, spoke to the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 09-03 in a ceremony held at Kaye Auditorium Friday.

Colonel Watkins began by telling the graduates they have a bright future in their respective weapon systems. "The Air Force is going to ask you to do amazing things."

However, he also reminded them of the reality of being an aviator in an air force currently engaged in conflict, "You are no longer in a sterile training environment. You will be asked to be a leader as well as a warrior."

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training has laid a foundation of flying ability and leadership for these future aviators and Colonel Watkins encouraged them to continue to strengthen and build upon this foundation throughout their careers. One concept Colonel Watkins challenged the graduates to develop was integrity, "You must do what is right even when it is not popular."

Colonel Watkins concluded with a reminder, "You've met the standards to become an air force pilot, but don't ever be satisfied with just meeting the standard. Let excellence drive everything you do."



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Josh Harbin

Colonel Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, delivers the keynote address to the graduates of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 09-03 in a ceremony held at Kaye Auditorium Friday.

LORENZ

(Continued from Page 1)

America's Airmen today... for tomorrow.

When asked about the intense degree of change in the Air Force today, the General remarked, "The Air Force holds a tradition of change. Columbus AFB trains its people for the future, not the past. I cannot even tell you what the Air Force will be like in 30 years."

As the new commander of AETC, General Lorenz hopes to foster a better understanding of how the continuum of training assists in creating the Air Force's greatest weapon: our Airmen.

"Our recruiting and training groups are doing a great job, but we want to know how recruiting, basic military training, technical training and advances in career fields prepare Airmen to arrive ready to perform their duties," said General Lorenz.

With regard to Columbus AFB leadership and its community, General Lorenz said the community reception during his visit was phenomenal. A gathering was held at Rosedale in downtown Columbus where base and civic leaders met with the general and welcomed him to the community. Rosedale is the home of Gene and Leigh Imes. Imes was an honorary commander for the 43rd and 48th Flying Training Squadrons.

To Columbus AFB BLAZE team and its community, General Lorenz closed his comments with, "Thank you for your support over our 65 years and keep up the wonderful things you do."

Reenlistment Ceremony



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Josh Harbin

Colonel Roger Watkins, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, presents to Oath of Enlistment to Staff Sgt. Christopher Dooley, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, during his reenlistment ceremony Dec. 10 at the Fire Department.

Honorary commander visit Scream'n Eagles

Lt. Col. David Gossett
14th Operations Support
Squadron Commander

Dec. 8, the 14th Operations Support Squadron, under the leadership of Lt. Col. David Gossett hosted their new honorary squadron commander, Carlos Rosales, owner of Tampico Bay and Carlos Digital Productions and his son, Roberto. The day was filled from start to finish Mr. Rosales received a full exposure to the diversity of the 14th OSS.

Mr. Rosales toured the 14th OSS and received an immersion brief from every flight in the OSS including Training, Life Support, Weather, Base Operations, RAP-CON, and Tower. Prior to the staff meeting, the key leaders met with Mr. Rosales and ate a lunch of chili prepared by squadron members. During the staff meeting, Colonel Gossett presented Mr. Rosales the "Scream'n Eagles" coin and 14th OSS patches. After the staff meeting, Mr. Rosales and his son received Red Carpet simulators conducted by LSI from all three airframes flown by the 14th Flying Training Wing.

One of the things which impressed Mr. Rosales the most was the amount of work which goes on at Columbus AFB and especially the amount of support which is required to make the mission of training the world's best pilots a reality. "I did not realize that this base was so busy!" Mr. Rosales remarked at his out-brief with Colonel Gossett at the end of the day.

"I will tell all my friends that good work is going on out here and I am proud to support Columbus AFB and its mission." Mr. Rosales went on to say, "I see it takes a lot of hard work to train a pilot and I am grateful for the hospitality shown by Colonel Gossett and all the Scream'n Eagles, and I'm proud to be their honorary squadron commander."



U.S. Air Force photo

Tim Thomson, Lear Siegler Inc. simulator instructor, flies a T-1A Jayhawk flight simulator with Carlos Rosales, honorary commander of the 14th Operation Support Squadron Monday. Rosales spent the day touring the 14th OSS to better understand its mission.

OSS Children's Christmas Party



Courtesy photo

The 14th Operations Support Squadron hosted their Children's Christmas Party Dec. 13. Santa, Mrs. Claus ("Mother Goose"), and one of Santa's Elves attended, bringing joy to the kids and families of the 14th OSS Screamin' Eagles.

Dec. 26 declared a federal holiday

According to a new Executive Order Dec. 26 has been declared a federal holiday. This order declares that all executive branch departments and agencies, including Columbus AFB, shall be closed and their employees excused from duty on Dec. 26 with a few exceptions. Please enjoy the day off safely and return rested.

Season's Greetings



Ten things all car and truck drivers should know about motorcycles

1. More than half of all fatal motorcycle crashes involve another vehicle. Most of the time, the motorist, not the motorcyclist, is at fault. There are a lot more cars and trucks than motorcycles on the road, and some drivers don't "recognize" a motorcycle - they ignore it (usually unintentionally).

2. Because of its small size, a motorcycle can be easily hidden in a car's blind spots (door/roof pillars) or masked by objects or backgrounds outside a car (bushes, fences, bridges, etc). Take an extra moment to look for motorcycles, whether you're changing lanes or turning at intersections.

3. Because of its small size, a motorcycle may look farther away than it is. It may also be difficult to judge a motorcycle's speed. When checking traffic to turn at an intersection or into (or out of) a driveway, predict a motorcycle is closer than it looks.

4. Motorcyclists often slow by downshifting or merely rolling off the throttle, thus not activating the brake light. Allow more following distance, say three or four seconds. At intersections, predict a motorcyclist may slow down without visual warning.

5. Motorcyclists often adjust position within a lane to

be seen more easily and to minimize the effects of road debris, passing vehicles, and wind. Understand that motorcyclists adjust lane position for a purpose, not to be reckless or show off or to allow you to share the lane with them.

6. Turn signals on a motorcycle usually are not self-canceling, thus some riders (especially beginners) sometimes forget to turn them off after a turn or lane change. Make sure a motorcycle's signal is for real.

7. Maneuverability is one of a motorcycle's better characteristics, especially at slower speeds and with good road conditions, but don't expect a motorcyclist to always be able to dodge out of the way.

8. Stopping distance for motorcycles is nearly the same as for cars, but slippery pavement makes stopping quickly difficult. Allow more following distance behind a motorcycle because it can't always stop "on a dime."

9. When a motorcycle is in motion, see more than the motorcycle - see the person under the helmet, who could be your friend, neighbor, or relative.

10. If a driver crashes into a motorcyclist, bicyclist, or pedestrian and causes serious injury, the driver would likely never forgive himself/herself.



Happy holidays from the Silver Wings staff



U.S. Air Force Photo

Second Lt. George Fowler, Chief of Internal Information, and Airman Josh Harbin, Silver Wing Editor, wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! During this time, the Silver Wings will not be published in observance of the holidays. The next edition will run Jan. 9, 2009.

Silver Wings next publishing date

Due to the holidays Silver Wings will not be published on Dec. 26 or Jan. 2. The next issue of Silver Wings will be dispersed Jan. 9. The deadline for bargain line ads is still Jan. 5, 2009 by noon.



Urgent care versus emergency care: understanding the difference

Kim Kinser

Public Relations Representative
for Humana Military
Healthcare Services

During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, sickness or injury can occur unexpectedly. Health care facilities, along with other businesses, may have special hours of operations. Being armed with the right information and an understanding of the difference between emergency care and urgent care can ease your mind and be helpful during an often stressful time of the year.

Urgent care services are medically necessary, non-life threatening conditions requiring professional attention within 24 hours. Examples of urgent conditions include sprains, sore throats, rising fever, coughs/colds, sinus infections, and earaches.

Illnesses are not confined to regular office hours, Monday through Friday. If you and your family are enrolled in Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote and find yourself in need of medical attention after hours, please

contact your primary care manager before you seek urgent care. Most network or Military Treatment Facility providers have an on-call process available after hours to assist in urgent situations. If you are unable to contact your PCM, or on-call provider for direction, please notify your PCM within 24 hours or the next business day following care to get a referral. Prime enrollees have a \$12 co-pay when seeking urgent care from a TRICARE-network Urgent Care facility.

Emergency care services are defined as medical, maternity, or psychiatric emergencies, believed to be serious medical conditions, requiring immediate medical attention. Examples of medical emergencies include, but are not limited to: severe bleeding, chest pain, shortness/inability to breathe, spinal cord or back injury, and severe eye injuries.

In the event of an emergency, you should go or be taken to the nearest emergency room for care. TRICARE defines an emergency room as an organized hospital-based facility for patients who present immediate medical attention, and the facility must be available

24 hours.

Prime beneficiaries seeking emergency services in a network facility ER have a \$30 co-pay. Please note that Prime beneficiaries visiting an ER for services that are determined to be nonemergency or urgent health care based on the ER claim, may face higher charges through the TRICARE Prime Point of Service.

Prime beneficiaries should not seek emergency care for clear cases of routine illnesses. To assist in keeping the cost of health care as low as possible, you must obtain all of your nonemergency care from your PCM, or from other providers you have been referred to by your PCM or Humana Military.

TRICARE Standard beneficiaries have the freedom to choose a TRICARE-authorized provider when seeking urgent or emergency care, however if the beneficiary chooses to use the Extra benefit by seeing a network work provider, their out of pocket cost will be less. If an Extra or Standard beneficiary seeks treatment in an ER and the claim reflects routine care was provided, the facility charge

may be denied and the professional services shall be allowed. If the contractor refers an Extra or Standard beneficiary to an ER, the care will be allowed.

Before an emergency or illness arises, please familiarize yourself with TRICARE network or authorized facilities in your area. To locate a TRICARE network facility or provider in the South region, please call beneficiary services at 1-800-444-5445.

Beneficiaries should keep their PCM informed of any urgent or emergency services they receive so referrals can be written and follow-up care arranged. By understanding TRICARE's urgent/emergency care guidelines, you can be sure you're receiving the best care from the proper providers at the lowest cost to you. To read more about this topic, visit the blog site for Major General Elder Granger, Deputy Director and Program Executive Officer of the TRICARE Management Activity, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) at <http://www.health.mil/tmablog/Article.aspx?ID=396>.

CDC preschool carolers



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. George Fowler

Preschoolers from the Children's Development Center carol at the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building Wednesday for all the people who work in the building. The preschoolers sang three songs and played tambourines they had made.

The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.

I am a warrior.

I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American Airman.

My mission is to fly, fight, and win.

I am faithful to a proud heritage,

A tradition of honor,

And a legacy of valor.

*I am an American Airman,
Guardian of freedom and justice,*

My nation's sword and shield,

Its sentry and avenger.

I defend my country with my life.

I am an American Airman:

Wingman, leader, warrior.

I will never leave an Airman behind,

I will never falter,

And I will not fail.

Multinational recovery exercise kicks off at Davis-Monthan AFB

Tech. Sgt. Kerry Jackson
355th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — More than 850 ground recovery forces and 51 aircraft from the Department of Defense and numerous other countries kicked off a personnel recovery and combat search and rescue exercise Dec. 8 here.

The two week-long Angel Thunder 2008 exercise allows U.S. and international military forces and numerous national, multinational and interagency personnel recovery assets to train through the full spectrum of personnel recovery capabilities — preparation, planning, execution and adaptation.

"Angel Thunder is a very unique program, built by the combat search and rescue community from the grass roots level, that incorporates the lessons we've collectively learned from our experiences," said Maj. Brett Hartnett, the Angel Thunder Project Officer assigned to the 563rd Operational Support Squadron here. "This exercise helps to eliminate the idea that personnel recovery can be done independent of other agencies, because from experience, we know that each service and government agency must work together to make successful recoveries at home and abroad."

Personnel recovery is the sum of military, civil, and political operations needed to gain the release or rescue of military personnel from uncertain or hostile environments, and civilians during combat, disaster and relief operations.

The exercise takes rescue personnel through a number of scenarios that emulate real-world rescue operations that have happened or have the possibility of happening. The mountainous regions of Southern Arizona and New Mexico are being used because they mirror the landscapes found through-

out Iraq and Afghanistan and other locations around the world.

The recovery forces see the benefit of learning and making mistakes during exercises like Angel Thunder, versus on the battlefield where lives are on the line.

"It's better to exercise this now than it would be when bullets are flying in a real combat situation," said Master Sgt. Chad Watts, the superintendent of combat survival training at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

More than 30 volunteers from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Air Force ROTC cadets from the University of Arizona served as survivors to add another level of realism to this exercise, Sergeant Watts said. "We need something tangible to look for, something to bring home. Ultimately, without a survivor you don't have an exercise."

Other key players participating in Angel Thunder included rescue forces from Chile, Colombia and Germany who are working alongside American forces throughout each phase of the exercise.

Personnel recovery operations require a precise mix of ground air forces to aid in successful rescues. Angel Thunder 2008 integrates combat aircrew forces, guardian angel and intelligence personnel, battle managers, and joint search and rescue center personnel. Because ground recovery forces routinely operate with forces from sister services, and other national, international and interagencies that may communicate, and respond in slightly different ways, Angel Thunder 2008 was designed to facilitate interoperability, cross-culture sharing of tactics and procedures.

"Everybody has their own tactics, techniques and procedures and having everybody come together allows us to work through some of the communication differences, and allows us



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Noah R. Johnson

Two Air Force pararescuemen depart from a HH-60G Pave Hawk to aid casualties during a personnel recovery training exercise Dec. 7 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.. More than 800 ground recovery personnel took part in Angel Thunder 2008, a combat search and rescue exercise.

to share lessons learned with each other," Sergeant Watts said.

Aircraft participating in Angel Thunder 2008 include the HH-60G Pave Hawk, the MC-130P Combat Shadow, C-130 Hercules, the AH-64D Longbow, the UH-1N Huey, C-17 Globemaster III, the KC-135 Stratotanker, the HC-130P/N, EC-130H Compass Call, the E-3 Sentry, the A-10 Thunderbolt II, and the German air force Tornado.

Angel Thunder 2008, hosted by Air Combat Command officials, is the third joint personnel recovery and combat rescue exercise conducted at Davis-Monthan AFB. American participation in this exercise include members from the Air Force, Army, the Department of Justice, the National Reconnaissance Office, the State Department, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the Joint Forces Command with multinational observers from Mexico, Canada and Pakistan.

AF plan could enable Iraq air sovereignty, independence

Chuck Paone
66th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — Work being done here by officials of the Electronic Systems Center and its federally funded research and development center partner, MITRE Corp., is helping pave the way for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq.

ESC and MITRE International Operations specialists, in concert with a number of ESC acquisition groups, completed work earlier this year on a comprehensive Iraq Air Sovereignty Master Plan, a roadmap that will help enable the Iraqi air force to operate without U.S and coalition assistance.

"We're helping to bring U.S. warfighters home by laying out a plan that will position, and properly equip, the Iraqi air force to operate on their own with regard to air sovereignty," said Charlie Bell, a MITRE engineer working with ESC's International Operations Division.

The team built an initial plan, dubbed Safe Eagle, which was intended only to outline the steps and equipment needed to rebuild Iraq's air traffic control infrastructure. However, the ESC team reasoned that the investment could be leveraged to benefit air sovereignty and air defense; a point which Iraqi military officials and coalition transition officials ultimately

agreed upon.

"It made sense that they needed to concentrate on flight safety and landing planes at first," said Sal Pomponi, a senior member of the team. "But they also need to be able to defend their air space and be able to command and control their air assets."

The team realized that the Iraqis might not have the resources to build all the systems at once; nor would they have the manpower to operate them all, even if they could be emplaced immediately.

"So we developed the master plan that shows what steps they need to take over the next few years, and which ones could be deferred until the timing is better," Mr. Pomponi said. The plan's timeline stretches through 2019.

"But the exact timing isn't what matters most," Mr. Bell said. "It's that they have a logical, sequenced master plan to work from."

So, with assistance from officials of the U.S. Air Forces Central and from the Coalitional Air Force Transition Team, or CAFTT, the Iraqis have been moving out.

ESC officials have already received several letters of request for the center to begin providing air traffic control equipment and communication systems. The 853rd Electronic Systems Group and the 350th ELSG are already engaged. Other ESC units, including

the 753rd ELSG and the 651st Electronic Systems Squadron, which provides weather systems, also expect to engage in Foreign Military Sales programs stemming from the plan.

Representatives from all of these units worked with the International Operations team that helped build the master plan. The team didn't draft the plan in a vacuum however. AFCENT, CAFFTT and, most important, the Iraqis themselves all participated.

"There was an initial perception that this coordination, involving civilians constantly traveling in and out of Iraq, could present a sizable obstacle, be costly and difficult," Mr. Bell said. "We therefore decided that it made sense to spend a little money on providing the Iraqi air force with video conferencing equipment. Once that was installed, we went ahead and met almost every week, via video teleconferences."

At first, language barriers — partially solved by having an Arabic-speaking ESC program office member participate — and other issues caused things to proceed slowly.

"The biggest thing was the military culture there," Mr. Pomponi said. "They were used to doing things the way they'd done them 20 years ago. That's what they were comfortable with, and that's what they wanted to go back to. But we kept stressing that they didn't need

to go back to that, that technology advances now make it possible to do things more efficiently."

For one thing, new technology makes it no longer necessary to divide the country into air defense quadrants with separate command and control centers in each. With the power of modern computing and the ability to tie together widely separated radar feeds, only one centralized center, and perhaps a back-up, would be required to conduct air operations throughout Iraq.

"It took a while but they eventually came around to see that our suggestions made sense," Mr. Bell said, noting that the Iraqi officials grasped the advantages of being able to accomplish the same things with fewer resources.

The successful drafting, coordination and ongoing implementation of the Iraq Air Sovereignty Master Plan have led CAFFTT and the Iraqis to seek letters of agreements and a follow-on study. This study, which began in October 2008, will map out strategies for acquiring and operating intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms and systems.

"This will be another important step forward for the Iraqi air force, and for the United States, in terms of helping facilitate the transition to Iraqi autonomy," Mr. Bell said.

The Buckeye
State's Base

Capt. Tony Wickman
USAFE Public Affairs

ACROSS

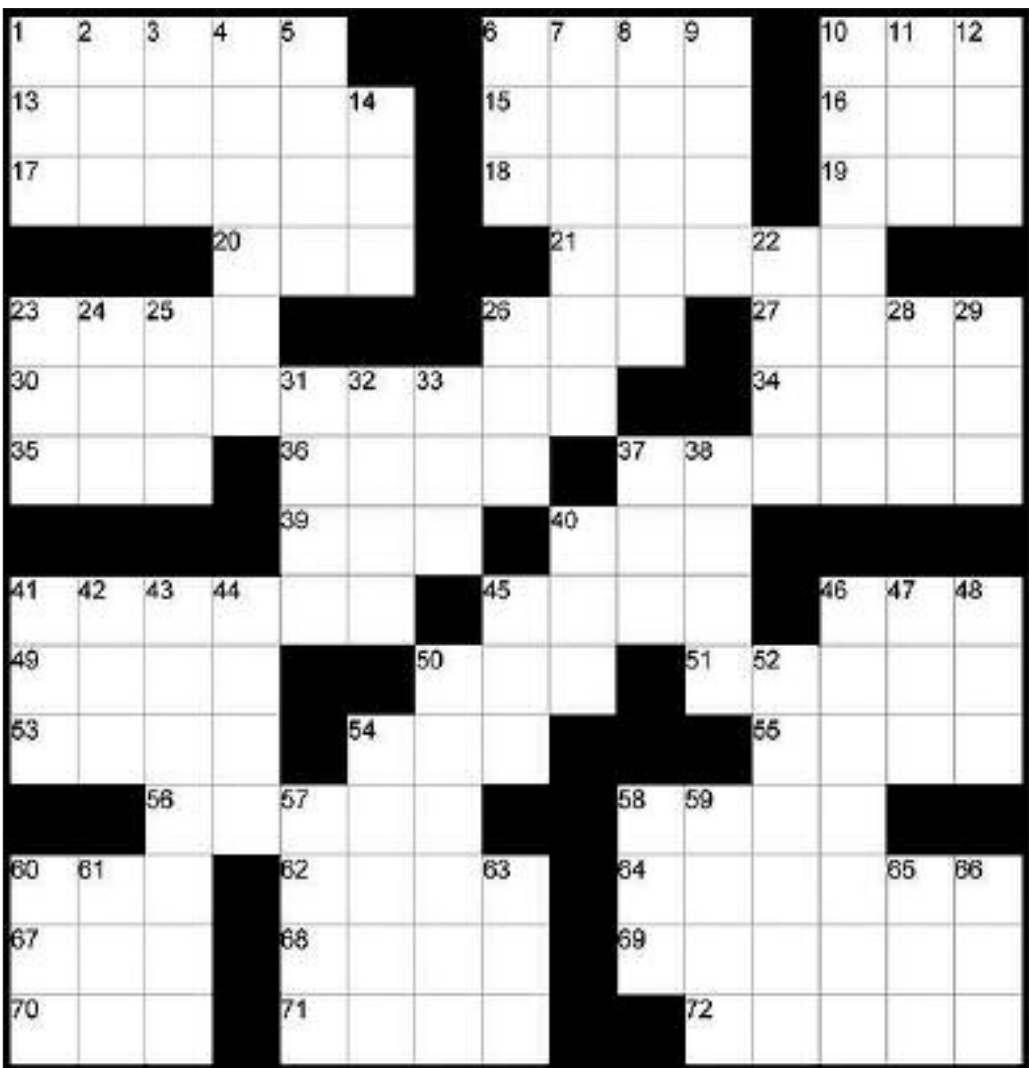
1. Swelling
6. MAJCOM the Buckeye State base is assigned
10. Buckeye State base product center tenant unit, in brief
13. C-5; plane flown by the Buckeye State base's 445 AW
15. Hammer's target
16. Possible duty status
17. Metal grating
18. ____ mater
19. Decorative vase
20. Permit
21. Pennies, nickels and dimes
23. Away from the wind
26. Earth
27. Clue
30. With 37 ACROSS, part of the Buckeye State base name
34. In a short time; soon
35. Federal org. concerned with airport security
36. Crest
37. Namesake of the Buckeye State base
39. Towel marking
40. ____ Claire
41. Ohio city home to the Buckeye State base
45. Buckeye State base R&D










- tenant unit
46. Slice
49. Margarine
50. Baseball tool
51. Hide
53. Buckeye State tenant unit for advanced education, in brief
54. Golden actress Arthur
55. Region
56. Projecting handle used to operate a mechanism
58. Sinister
60. Father
62. Loiter
64. Discovers the absence or loss of something
67. Mock
68. Like
69. Superfluous or useless
70. Head movement
71. Loan
72. Commandeer

DOWN

1. Breakfast item
2. Patriotic org.
3. Cotton gin inventor Whitney
4. Hammer
5. Car part
6. Actress Ortiz of Ugly Betty
7. F-16
8. Acted out
9. Tribe
10. Entertaining
11. Title of address for a male officer
12. Discard

14. Still
22. Asian person
23. Given
24. ____ Vegas
25. Greek letter
26. Drunkard
28. Classical drama of Japan with stylized music and dance
29. Explosive combo
31. Resound
32. Derail
33. Draft org.
37. Combat
38. Make a determination
40. Young newt
41. 1988 Quaid/Ryan film
42. Alien TV show
43. Surrendered
44. Carry
45. Auto club
46. Current MAJCOM commander at the Buckeye State base
47. Exploit
48. Afternoon beverage in London
50. Site of famous 1948 airlift
52. Dried grape
54. Current commander of 45 ACROSS
57. Glass container
58. Punk-rock offshoot music genre
59. Resume
60. Dolphin great Marino
61. Overseas mil. address
63. Terminate
65. 112°30' east of due north
66. Male or Female



	CV-22	C-5					
		KC-135	C-5			C-130	
				HH-60		MH-53	C-5
	KC-135		C-130				
			C-21		HH-60		C-130
CV-22						MH-53	
C-5		CV-22					KC-10
					C-17	C-5	
	MH-53			C-5			C-17

AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT

To solve, place an airlift aircraft into each box so that each row across, each column down, and each small 9-box square within the larger diagram will contain each of the following airlift aircraft: C-5, C-17, C-21, C-130, CV-22, HH-60, KC-10, KC-135 and MH-53. In other words, no aircraft may appear more than once in any row, column, or smaller 9-box square. Working with the planes already given as a guide, complete each diagram with the missing ranks that will lead to the correct solution.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun
22	23 Last Day of Flying	24	25 Christmas Day	26 AETC Family Day; CAFB Closed	27/28
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2 AETC Family Day; CAFB Closed	3/4

Long Term Events

- Jan. 5 - Flying Resumes (1/2 day)
Jan. 9 - 09-04 Assignment Night
Jan. 15 - Dorm Dinner

- Jan. 16 - AETC AF Ball
Jan. 19 - MLK Jr. Birthday Holiday
Jan. 23 - 09-04 Graduation

Staying safe this holiday season

Lt. Col. Jason Fromm
Chief, 14th Flying Training
Wing Safety

The holiday season is a time to take a few days off work, spend time with family and friends and celebrate joyful traditions. Unfortunately, every year a few families will suffer life-changing tragedies which can impact an entire community.

Over the last three holiday seasons, the Air Force has lost 20 Airmen to fatal mishaps. Motorcycles and cars accounted for 35 percent and 25 percent of these deaths, respectively. Pedestrians were hit twice. Alcohol was involved in 30 percent of these deaths.

These statistics don't mean you shouldn't ride, drive, walk or drink; but I would encourage each of you to carefully plan your activities to ensure you and your families get the most out of your holidays and return to work safely in January. Have a responsible plan and stick to it. Wingmen and supervisors need to be actively involved to make sure good decisions are being made by everyone. There are several other things you should consider to make sure your family has a great holiday.

Holiday stress can become overwhelming. Realistic budgeting and appropriate discipline can alleviate a lot of these issues, but realize that some folks may be going through an emotionally difficult time during the holiday season. If this applies to you or someone you know, please know that help is available through

several avenues on base. Wingmen and supervisors need to be on the lookout for signs that someone may be going through a tough time.

Another safety concern involves winter recreation. If this is your chance to hit the slopes or hop on the snowmobile, please do so safely and ease into strenuous activities slowly. No matter who you are, you're not as young as you used to be; and you may not be as conditioned for the activity as you used to be. Cold injuries can also be a problem. Dress appropriately for your activities and keep essential survival equipment in your car. Be especially alert for children, and even pets may need extra attention.

Finally, please employ common sense and risk mitigation to your cooking and decorations. This may be the only time of year you dust off the turkey fryer and giant box of extension cords and fancy lights. We don't want any electrical fires, tripping hazards or third-degree burns. Don't overload circuits or cords, and don't break your neck trying to win the neighborhood decoration competition.

These are common sense risk management concerns, but every January we hear about someone who ignored these simple words and became a tragic statistic. Please watch out for yourselves and those around you. Watch out for children and pets and apply risk management tools. Take care of each other and have a great, safe holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Ruth Holcomb
Staff Sgt. Brandon Arenibar hands out candy bars to the children at Vasilievka Elementary School Oct. 7 near Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. Members of the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Staff and Operations Group have supported the school since 2004, pulling together donations, pooling skills such as painting and carpentry and just spending time with the kids. Sergeant Arenibar is assigned to the 376th Expeditionary Operations Group.

The spirit of the season: giving

Lt. Col. Joseph Rushlau
376th Expeditionary Maintenance Group
commander

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan — Those of us deployed to Manas Air Base are rolling into the holiday season. We just passed Thanksgiving, which most of us would normally like to celebrate with family and friends back in the United States.

While I think most of us had a great time celebrating here with wonderful food and plenty of fellowship, I'm sure most of the Airmen, like me, couldn't help but think of the typical Thanksgiving at home. Spending time with my wife, children and our friends is always a good time, especially during the holidays.

With the advent of the holiday season, Airmen here may wonder how exactly they will get to celebrate so far from home and their loved ones. I would challenge you to think about the spirit of the holiday season we have just entered. You may not realize that Manas AB Airmen are celebrating every day because the true spirit of this season is about GIVING and that is exactly what we do here.

Think about it. The mission at Manas AB is aerial refueling, passenger movement and warrior care. We give to support many different people day in and day out. The season of giving is a year round experience at Manas AB.

We also get support from many different people — not just our co-workers in the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing. We all know that some of our comrades have given their lives to ensure the rest of us keep the gift of freedom. To sacrifice is to give, and there is no greater act of giving than what these

warriors have done for their nation and the cause of freedom.

We may not face the same level of dangers at Manas AB, but we do sacrifice. We have all given up time at home with our families and friends so we can give support to our brothers and sisters in arms during this time of war. What a great example of the holiday spirit of giving.

I see giving from the heart every day with the service so many of the base Airmen provide to our great outreach organizations on off-duty time, including the Manas Service Organization and Manas Air Base Outreach Society. Many Airmen here have gone out and given time to the people in the local communities. If you don't think this is a great example of holiday spirit, look again — it's there in the smiles on the faces of the children. If you think you are going to miss the smiles around the Christmas tree this holiday season, spend some time at a local school or orphanage and I think you will be satisfied.

In our culture, we sometimes get focused on the material things we give and get, but what is the most precious gift you can give another person? The answer is your time and your attention. At Manas AB, we give our time and attention to people as part of our jobs. Offer some of your personal time and spend a few minutes outside work with your co-workers and neighbors in the local communities. The gift of one's attention and time is not soon forgotten.

A famous philosopher, Francis of Assisi, once said, "It is in giving that we receive." So, if you want to feel the holiday spirit of giving, I encourage you to give some of your own time to help someone else. By taking care of one another, everyone will feel the spirit of the holiday season



AETC Commander visits BLAZE team



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Josh Harbin
General Stephen Lorenz AETC Commander, and his wife Leslie, talk with Brenda Lathan, Roger and Donna Burlingame during a community reception for the general Monday at Rosedale antebellum home. Lathan and Burlingame are the Columbus representatives to the AETC Commander's Civic Group.



Gen. Stephen Lorenz
Commander, Air Education and
Training Command



U.S. Air Force photo by Mary Crump
Connie Lisowski, 14 Flying Training Wing Historian, explains the uniform display of Capt. Sam Kaye to AETC Commander Gen. Stephen Lorenz during his tour of the history displays in the lobby of Kaye Auditorium Tuesday. The auditorium is named after the Columbus native and WW I pilot.



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens
General Stephen Lorenz, AETC commander, observes a group of specialized undergraduate pilot trainees during their T-1 mission briefing in the 48th Flying Training Squadron during his two-day visit to Columbus AFB.



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens
Lieutenant Col. David Gossett, 14th Operations Support Squadron commander, begins a tour with of the Columbus AFB Radar Approach Control with General Stephen Lorenz, AETC commander. Accompanying Colonel Gossett during the visit is Chief Master Sgt. Glenn Shreiner, 14th Chief of Radar and Approach Control, Lt. Adam Campos, Deputy Airfield Operations Officer and Capt. Christine Littlejohn, Airfield Operations Flight.



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens
Carmine Muscarella, Columbus AFB Fitness Center Manager, shows AETC Commander Gen. Stephen Lorenz and AETC Command Chief Master Sergeant Robert Tapana a display of t-shirts awarded to participants in Fitness Center special events this past year during their tour of the Fitness Center Monday.



U.S. Air Force photo by Elizabeth Owens
Colonel Diane Fletcher, 14th medical Group commander observes Staff Sgt. Christine Mounts, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, answer questions by AETC Commander Gen. Stephen Lorenz on the accomplishments of the Columbus AFB Dental Clinic during his visit Monday. The clinic was just recognized as the AETC 2008 Small Dental Clinic of the Year.

Base families afforded many recreational opportunities

New Orleans Saints Tickets

The Information, Ticket and Travel office has a limited number of tickets to the New Orleans home game against Carolina Dec. 28. Tickets are \$45 each and are sold on a first come, first served basis. An overnight trip for the Dec. 7 game against Atlanta includes transportation, lodging and ticket to the game for \$165 per person. For more information, call 434-7861.

Mardi Gras Trip

Check with the Information, Ticket and Travel office for booking your reservation for this trip scheduled for Feb. 13 to Feb. 15. Cost is \$175 per person, double occupancy, \$140 per person with three in a room or \$120 person for four in a room. Cost includes transportation, two nights' lodging, and a light breakfast. Must have 20 registered by Jan. 15 to offer. For more information, call 434-7861.

Holiday Carnival, Family Bingo

The Youth Center offers this program from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Youth Center. Win prizes at the carnival and family bingo games. Register by Dec. 16 at the Youth Center. For more information, call 434-2504.

Texas Hold'Em

The Columbus Club is offering a Texas Hold'Em contest Jan. 10. Register by Jan. 8. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and games

begin at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment fee is \$5 for members and \$10 for non members. Late registrants will be placed on a waiting list. For more information, call 434-2490.

Parents Time Out

The Child Development Center is offering this new program from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays starting Jan. 8. The program is open to ages 1 to 3 and fees are based on total family income. For more information, call 434-2479.

Youth of the Year Program

Teens, ages 13-18, may pick up an application at the Youth Center for this program. Packages must be returned to the Youth Center by Jan. 20 to be considered for youth of the year. If your parents work on base and you are a registered member of the Columbus AFB Youth Center's Teen Program, then you are eligible to compete. Membership is free.

The package consists of written narrative and supporting documents. Each package addresses the following areas: home and family life, moral character, community service, school, service to club, life goals, essay one and essay two.

The base winner will be awarded prizes totaling over \$100 to include a plaque, if selected at state level at \$1,000 scholarship is awarded, the regional winner wins a \$10,000 scholarship and the national youth of the year receives a \$15,000 scholarship. For more information, contact Mr. Hamilton at 434-2504.

Library Adds "Playaway" Section

The library has added a new item to their audio/visual collection with the new technology of "playaway". These are pre-loaded portable audio books to listen to on the go. Just plug in a headphone and listen. The book comes with a headphone but will work with most headphones, speakers and car adapters. They currently have non-fiction, fiction and children's books and will be adding more throughout the year.

Teen Rap Session

The Youth Center invites all teens, ages 13-18, to a planning meeting at 6 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Youth Center. If your parents work on base, whether you live on or off base, please come and let's talk about programs, trips, special events, etc. Pizza and refreshments will be served. Register by Jan. 6 if you plan to participate. For more information, call 434-2504.

Youth Fine Art Competition

The Youth Center offers this competition for all base youth Jan. 12. Deadline to register is Jan. 7 at the Youth Center. Artwork must be entered in the age group that corresponds to the age of the member when the work was completed, with the exception of the Group Project category. The age groups are: 9 or younger, 10 to 12, 13 to 15 and 16 to 18. Artwork must be entered in one of the following categories:

- Monochromatic drawing; created with pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, crayons, etc., in one color or hue.
- Multicolored drawing; created with pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, crayons, etc., in more than one color or hue.
- Pastel; created with chalk or pastels.
- Watercolor; created with tempera, pan-type or tube water-based paints.
- Oil or acrylic; created with oil- or acrylic-based paints.
- Print making; created by transferring an impression of a composition from one surface to paper (e.g. silk screening, wood-cut, etching, lithography, etc.)
- Mixed Media: created by combining any of the other categories on a two-dimensional surface (e.g., an etching colored with pencils).
- Collage: created by applying two or more materials on a raised two-dimensional surface (e.g., gluing different shapes of paper together).
- Sculpture: created with material to make a nonfunctional, three-dimensional object. These may include wood-carved statues, pottery, etc.

Youth Pre-New Year's Eve Celebration

Youth members and school age members are eligible to participate in a New Year's Eve celebration from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 31. Come enjoy food, music, noisemakers, party favors, and more at the Youth Center. For more information, call 434-2504.

HOLIDAY HOURS												
	Monday Dec. 22	Tuesday Dec. 23	Wednesday Dec. 24	Thursday Christmas	Friday Dec. 26	Saturday Dec. 27	Sunday Dec. 28	Monday Dec. 29	Tuesday Dec. 30	Wednesday Dec. 31	Thursday New Year	Friday Jan. 2
Arts & Crafts	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Auto Hobby Shop	0900-1300	0900-1300	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	0900-1300	0900-1300	Closed	Closed	Closed
Bowling Center	0700-2100	0700-2100	Closed	Closed	1200-2300	0800-2300	1100-1600	0700-2100	0700-2100	0700-1400	Closed	1200-2300
Child Dev Center	0630-1730	0630-1730	0630-1730	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	0630-1730	0630-1730	0630-1730	Closed	Closed
Columbus Club	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Daily Grind	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Copy Cut Ups	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fitness Center	0500-2300	0500-2300	1000-1800	Closed	1000-1800	0800-2000	0800-2000	0500-2300	0500-2300	1000-1800	1000-1800	1000-1800
Golf Course	Closed	0800-Dusk	0800-Dusk	Closed	0800-Dusk	0800-Dusk	0800-Dusk	Closed	0800-Dusk	0800-Dusk	Closed	0800-Dusk
HRO	0730-1630	0730-1630	0730-1630	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	0730-1630	0730-1630	0730-1630	Closed	Closed
Library	0900-1700	0900-1700	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1300-1700	0900-1700	0900-1700	Closed	Closed	Closed
Lodging	Open 24/7											
Outdoor Rec/ITT	0800-1200	0800-1200	0800-1200	Closed	Closed	0800-1200	0900-1200	0800-1200	0800-1200	0800-1200	Closed	Closed
Paintball/Archery	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Vet Services	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wood Hobby Shop	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Youth Center	1500-2000	1500-2000	1500-2000	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1500-2000	1500-2000	1500-1800	Closed	Closed

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MANPOWER, PERSONNEL, & SERVICES



Base News

New vMPF Capability

Effective Dec. 18, the vMPF will become the primary system to complete the Withdraw/ Cancellation of Voluntary Assignment self-service application. This application will have processing procedures similar to those outlined in AFI 36-2110, Assignments. All enlisted and officers in the grades of Colonel and below will utilize the application to withdraw a pending voluntary assignment application or request cancellation of an approved voluntary assignment. Member will access vMPF on the AFPC secure website and initiate the request for withdrawal of a pending voluntary assignment application or cancellation of an approved voluntary assignment. If applicable, member will receive an on-screen approval notification to withdraw an application in pending status. Military Personnel Section at x2691 can assist members with accessing vMPF and answering general questions. Member's commander will provide recommendation in Case Management System (CMS) and forward to AFPC. For complete detailed instructions, review the Personnel Systems Delivery Handbook on the AFPC website.

Testing Center Closure

The Education Services Testing Center will be closed starting Dec. 22 and will reopen on Jan. 5, 2009. Additionally, the Testing Center will be closed Jan. 6. Please plan accordingly. Normal testing hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Call 434-2562 to schedule.

Education Counseling Hours

Education counseling (CCAF, Bachelor's/Master's programs, Tuition Assistance, etc.) is now available Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Please contact Edward Hodge at 434-2562 to schedule.

Tax Services

H&R Block will be providing tax preparation services January 2, 2009 through April 15, 2009. They will be located in the Columbus AFB Exchange Please call Tom Darnell at 434-0070 for more information or to set up an appointment as hours will vary.

DRMO

Authorized personnel may retrieve property that is marked for DRMO Facilities only if they are still physically located in Base Supply. For more information, call 434-7233 to review the property or call Stock Control Section at 434-7179

or 434-7198. To check for authorization and Demand Processing Section, call 434-7178 to order the property. All other DRMO processing is done via the Web at www.drms.dla.mil.

Zero Overpricing Program-Incentive Awards

Overpricing is an issue everyone should be working. All personnel are encouraged to participate, and will be rewarded for any tangible savings resulting from their price challenge. Monetary awards will be given in accordance with AFI 38-401, The Air Force Innovative Development Employee Awareness Program. Advice and guidance are available by calling the Customer Service element of Base Supply, located in Building 158, at 434-7178.

Supply Customer

If you are looking for that special piece of equipment or furniture for your office, your point of contact is the Inspection Section of Base Supply. Inspection maintains the Last Look Area, which has used equipment and furniture turned in from other organizations that no longer have a need for the items. All items in the Last Look Area are available without charge to your organization. For more information, you can contact the Inspection Section at 434-7233 or 434-7234.

Attention All Deployers

The 14th Communications Squadron has a new system which allows you to place "free" telephone calls back home from your deployed location via DSN. You can call every day or once a week; whichever you prefer (allotted time is 3.5 hours a week). Pin numbers are required and can be picked up along with instructions from the Telephone Systems office located in Building 900, Room 9. Please call 434-2020 for additional information.

Gas Mask Fit Test

Gas Mask Fit Testing will now be by appointment only. Appointments will be taken Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exceptions to appointment times will be made for deployers only. For more information, call Bioenvironmental Engineering at 434-2286 or 434-2226.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open for consignments of household goods, appliances that are in good working order, furniture and electronics. Please, no computer equipment. Clothing is accepted as donation items only.

The Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignments are taken up until noon.

Airman and Family Readiness Center

(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790 or email afrc@columbus.af.mil.)

Pre-Deployment Brief

There is a mandatory briefing for active duty personnel who are deploying or going on a remote tour. The brief is held every work day at 9:30 a.m. Spouses are welcome to attend.

Post-Deployment Brief

This mandatory briefing is for active duty personnel who are returning from deployment or a remote tour are held daily at 1:30 p.m. at the A&FRC. For more information, call 434-2790.

Preseparation Counseling

This mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation is held daily at 8:30 a.m. May complete up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. This briefing takes approximately 30 minutes. For more information, call 434-2839 or 434-2790.

Communications, Assertiveness Workshop

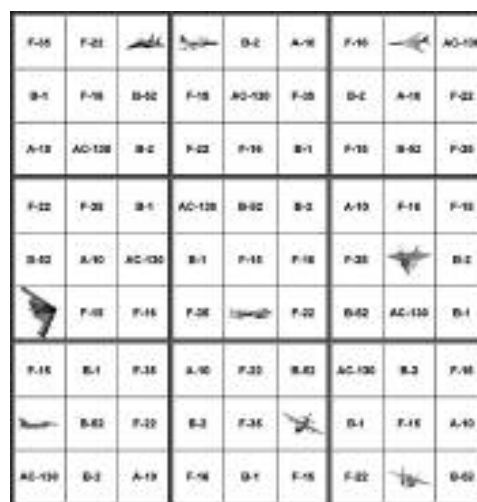
This workshop will be held Dec. 19 from 11 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 434-2839 or 434-2790.

Telephone Directories

Local AT&T "The Real Yellow Pages"® are available at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Stop by and pick up your free copy.

SOLUTION FOR LAST WEEK

(Current weeks puzzle on page 8)



Budgeting Basics

This event is held every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon at Airman & Family Readiness Center. Learn practical ways to tell your money where to go rather than wonder where it went. For more information, call 434-2790.

Chapel Schedule

Protestant

Sunday:

9 a.m. — Adult Sunday School

10:45 a.m. — Traditional Worship

Service (Children's Church)

All are invited to a fellowship luncheon following the 10:45 a.m. service the fourth Sunday of each month.

Holiday schedule:

Dec. 24: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.: Come and Go Communion. If you are unable to join us for the candlelight service but would like to partake of communion and prayer, please come to the Chapel for its Come and Go Communion.

Dec. 24: 5 p.m.: Candlelight Service The Base Chapel will offer family come and go Protestant Communion at the Chapel Christmas Eve from 3 p.m. to 4 :30 p.m. There will be a Protestant traditional style Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service at 5 p.m. at the Chapel. Everyone is invited. If you would like to know about other worship opportunities, please contact the base chapel at 434-2500.

Catholic

Thursday:

5 p.m. — Choir Practice

Sunday:

3:45 p.m. — Choir Practice

4:30 p.m. — Confession

5:00 p.m. — Mass



Every officer deserves the benefits of MOAA: The Military Officers Association of America offers many valued services and as an officer, you could join during the holiday season for free. As a new member you will receive a member kit which includes a welcome letter and a membership card. To receive free membership you have to have a current MOAA member's number. Major (ret.) Charles Boyette has generously offered his

membership number, 00264082, to anyone who would like to use it. All you have to do is call (866) 749-7109 and give them the membership number.

Public Administration at MUW: The Mississippi University for Women's Certificate in Public Administration prepares students with the knowledge, skills, and ability necessary to succeed in government and non-profit organizations. This program is open to all majors and

requires a minimum of 15 hours of coursework. The courses are scheduled to be available in the evening, but online courses are being developed as well. For more information or to sign up with the certificate program, to the MUW website homepage at www.muw.edu, click on the "Executive Certification" icon and choose the "Public Administration" icon.

New Year's Eve Block Party: Stark Aerospace, Main Street Columbus and

WCBI-TV presents the first New Year's Block Party taking place in downtown Columbus Dec. 31 beginning at 8:30 p.m. and ending at 12:30 a.m. More details will be provided as they become available.

For more information about local area events, e-mail AFRC@columbus.af.mil or call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 434-2790.

Happy Holidays ❧ Happy Holidays ❧ Happy Holidays

Ecuadorian air force edges U.S. Air Force 26-25

Tech. Sgt. Matthew McGovern

Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

FORWARD OPERATING LOCATION MANTA, Ecuador — Members of the U.S. Air Force fell to the Ecuadorian air force 26-25 Dec. 9 during a basketball championship game between forces assigned to Forward Operating Location Manta.

The lead for the game went back and forth all the way to the end as a crowd of nearly 100 American Airmen, Ecuadorian air force members and civilians jumped out of their seats and shouted for their favorite team throughout the contest.

"They were a lot stronger than we expected," said Jared Curtis, the U.S. Air Force team leader. "What they lack in size, they made up for in hustle."

The Ecuadorian team had similar thoughts about the Americans.

"The U.S. team was very hard to beat," said William Voleo, an Ecuadorian air force team member. "They had good, taller players. We put all our emotion, desire and heart into the game because it was an international competition."

Though the two teams played against each other on the court, off the court they work together executing the mission to counter the movement of drugs in the area.

"It's important to integrate our people and have fun," said Eduardo Cardenas, the Ecuadorian air force commander.

Lt. Gen. Glenn F. Spears, the deputy commander of Southern Command, watched the game while in the area for a holiday tour to visit forward deployed personnel and assisted nearby communities in seven Latin American countries during the holiday season.

General Spears was entertained with the intensity of the game but also pleased to see the two teams interacting after-



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Matthew McGovern

The Ecuadorian air force team squares off against the U.S. Air Force basketball team during a championship basketball game Dec. 9 at Forward Operating Location Manta in Ecuador. Nearly 100 fans cheered on their favorite team, as the Ecuadorian air force pulled out a 26-25 victory.

ward.

"They came to play," he said. "The partnership is critical here. We in the U.S. are eager to work as equals with the military of the region to confront the challenge that face all of us together. Our motto at SOUTHCOM is, 'Partnership

for the Americans,' because the Western Hemisphere is the home that we share."

That partnership was evident at the end of the game when the players from both team hugged one another in friendship.

Sports Shorts

Fitness Classes: The Fitness Center offers fitness classes. Spin classes are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning at 7 a.m. Cardio kick boxing classes are Mondays and Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and aerobics is offered Saturdays at 9 a.m. For more information, call the Fitness Center at 434-2772.

Summer Lunch, Bowl Special: Receive two free games of bowling from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the purchase of a combo meal during lunch.

Cosmic Bowling: Cosmic bowling is every Friday and Saturday from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Cost is \$2 per game. The night is complete with black lights, loud music, strobe lights and bowling!



U.S. Air Force photo/Mike Kaplan

Air Force Falcon quarterback Tim Jefferson looks for a receiver during a 38-24 loss to the Brigham Young University Cougars at Falcon Stadium in Colorado, Nov. 15. Jefferson was named the Mountain West Conference's freshman of the year by Sporting News, according to a release Dec. 15 by the sports magazine. Jefferson also earned MWC freshman-of-the-year honors in a vote of head coaches and media within the league earlier this month.

Falcon quarterback honored by Sporting News

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force Academy freshman quarterback Tim Jefferson was named the Mountain West Conference's freshman of the year by Sporting News, according to a release Dec. 15 by the sports magazine. Jefferson also earned MWC freshman-of-the-year honors in a vote of head coaches and media within the league earlier this month.

Jefferson recorded a 5-2 record as the starting quarterback after taking over in the sixth game of the season. Just the fourth freshman starting quarterback in school history, Jefferson rushed for 373 yards and hit 37 of 66 passes for a team-best 557 yards with five touchdowns and three

interceptions. His 142.86 quarterback efficiency rating is the eighth best in school history. He was named MWC offensive player of the week earlier this season vs. the University of Nevada-Las Vegas after rushing for a career-best 99 yards and hitting of seven passes for 162 yards and the first two touchdown passes of his career.

The Falcons finished the season 8-4 overall and finished fourth in the MWC with a 5-3 mark. They play the University of Houston (7-5, 6-2 C-USA) in the 2008 Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas, Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 11 a.m. central in Amon G. Carter Stadium.